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Update on Hermits Peak and Calf Canyon Fire Recovery

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Long Term Recovery Plan

- The Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) identified seven recovery support functions which it has worked to coordinate with other state and federal agencies in its efforts to help the state recover from the Hermit's Peak Calf Canyon wildfires. Called "lines of effort," in DHSEM internal documents, these include community outreach, drinking water, economic recovery, health and social services, historical and cultural resources, housing recovery, and wildfire mitigation.
- The agency has worked with the Environment Department (NMED), the Economic Development Department (EDD), the Human Services Department (HSD), the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA), and the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) to coordinate recovery and mitigation efforts while leveraging the expertise of each cabinet secretary or designee in working to effectively deploy both financial and other resources. Overseen by a unified command group, DHSEM has held regular meetings with each task force, and has held monthly coordinating meetings to facilitate accountability, reporting and leadership support for recovery operations.
- While each task force has different goals, DHSEM had previously committed to tracking standardized metrics for each including:
 - Percentage of target federal grants received overall.
 - The value of state/federal assistance provided to impacted communities.
 - Equitable program distribution, as evaluated based on aggregate program recipient demographics, with breakdowns by socioeconomic status, household composition, race, ethnicity, and language.
 - Inclusivity and accessibility of outreach materials used to communicate opportunities to community members and organizations.
 - Number of technical assistance resources and capacity building (e.g., individuals funded in local governments, plans developed) deployed at the local level.

Available Recovery and Mitigation Funding Programs

- The lines of effort and unified command group have identified 55 unique recovery and mitigation program grant opportunities across 17 federal and state agencies. The largest and most critical include:
 - FEMA Public Assistance (~ \$70 million for governments and private non-profits)
 - FEMA Individual Assistance (~\$13 million for individuals and households)
 - FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance (~\$30 million for governments)
 - FEMA Community Disaster Loans
 - FEMA Hermits Peak/Calf Canyon Claims Office (~\$3.95 billion)
 - New Mexico Laws 2023, Chapter 2 (Hermits Peak-Calf Canyon Fire Recovery Funds)
- The federal HPCC Fire Assistance Act which included funding for the FEMA claims office was projected to offset most of the financial needs in the area impacted by the fires, however, as of January 2023, DHSEM identified an additional \$235 million in unmet needs which were not covered by these federal funds including:
 - ~\$77 million for housing
 - ~\$110 million for infrastructure
 - ~\$2.9 million for economic development
 - ~\$45.3 million for planning and capacity building
- DHSEM has not reported regularly on the status of recovery and mitigation efforts, and will need to improve communication with the Legislative Finance Committee staff in the coming months.